

REMARKS:

Claims 1-13 are pending in the subject application. Of those claims, claims 1, 7, 10 and 11 are independent.

In the outstanding Action, claims 1, 4-8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance et al. (US Patent 6,992,699, hereinafter "Vance") in view of Arai et al. (US Patent Publication 2002/0160724, hereinafter "Arai"), in further view of Lee (US Patent 7,418,280, hereinafter "Lee"). Dependent claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance in view of Arai and Lee, and in further view of Kuchimaru (US Patent Publication 2005/0047770, hereinafter "Kuchimaru"). Lastly, dependent claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance in view of Arai, in further view of Lee, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Tseng et al. (US Patent 6,266,090, hereinafter referred to as "Tseng").

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

In the outstanding non-final Office Action, the Examiner contends at page 4 that "Arai, for example, shows that it is known in the art to permit rotation of the imaging sensor in order to facilitate imaging on opposing sides of the camera." The Examiner further contends at page 5 that "Lee teaches a camera module (Fig. 7, [31, 32, 40]), which moves linearly into and out of a hinge part (col. 5, lines 13-16). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the linear motion of retracting the camera into the case body or protruding it out of the case body in order to protect the lens from constant exposure to contamination and damage (col. 1, lines 32-35)."

However, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites, in part, that "... a mechanism [is] configured to move at least the image sensor linearly in the case structure to a position

clear of the first and second apertures, in order to permit rotation of the image sensor, wherein the sensor is rotatable between sets of aperture and optics arranged in a fixed connection with the respective aperture.”

Similarly, Applicant’s independent claim 7 recites, in part, “wherein the image sensor and the said part of the optics are linearly moved in the case structure to a position clear of the first and second apertures, in order to permit rotation of the image sensor, wherein the sensor is rotatable between sets of aperture and optics arranged in a fixed connection with the respective aperture.”

Remaining independent claims 10 and 11 also respectively recite, in part:

“wherein the image sensor and the optics arranged in connection with it can be linearly moved in the case structure to a position clear of the first and second apertures, in order to permit rotation of the image sensor, wherein the sensor is rotatable between sets of aperture and optics arranged in a fixed connection with the respective aperture” and

“a mechanism configured to slide the image sensor inside the case to a position away from the aligned apertures at which position the image sensor is rotatable, wherein the sensor is rotatable between sets of aperture and optics arranged in a fixed connection with the respective aperture.”

No combination of Vance, Arai and Lee can disclose or suggest such a solution including the above recited features, as set forth in Applicant’s independent claims. For example, Arai discloses a camera module, which is located in a slot of the case structure. In addition, Arai and Lee disclose camera modules with a single camera aperture. The skilled artisan would have no reason to combine and modify the cited references in an attempt to arrive at Applicant’s subject matter set forth in the independent claims. Moreover, even if the references were combined, Applicant’s

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claimed invention would not be disclosed or suggested. For example, the cited references, whether viewed alone or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest Applicant's recited claim features including a sensor rotatable between sets of aperture and optics arranged in a fixed connection with the respective aperture.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 7, 10 and 11 are believed to patentable. Accordingly, remaining dependent claims 2-6, 8-9 and 12-13 also are believed to be patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

For completion, it is also noted that the addition of Tseng and Kuchimaru, which were additionally cited by the Examiner in the rejection of Applicant's dependent claims, does not cure the shortcomings of the Vance, Arai and Lee, and does not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, a call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:

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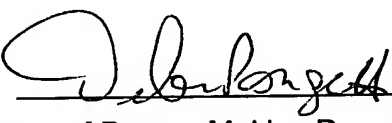
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